

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 12, 14-27, 29, 31-33, 38, 39, and 44 are pending. No new matter has been introduced. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

In the November 1 Office Action, the Examiner allowed claims 4, 8, 12, 18-27, 29, and 31, 33, 38, and 39, for which Applicants thank the Examiner. (*November 1 Office Action, page 4*)

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being obvious over Sawada et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,137,769 (hereinafter Sawada). (*November 1 Office Action, page 2*) The Examiner rejected claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Sawada and further in view of Ikeda et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,282,654 (hereinafter Ikeda) or Lee et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,570,340 (hereinafter Lee). (*November 1 Office Action, page 3*) The Examiner rejected claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Sawada in view of Ikeda or Lee and further in view of Takeuchi, U.S. Patent No. 5,721,856 (hereinafter Takeuchi). (*November 1 Office Action, page 3*) The Examiner rejected claim 44 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Sawada and further in view of Misaizu et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,896,351 (hereinafter Misaizu). (*November 1 Office Action, page 3*) Applicants respectfully transverse the rejections.

Independent Claim 1 recites:

A method of logically erasing contents of a rewritable optical disc in response to an erase command, the rewritable optical disc being optically rewriteable and having a program area and a program memory area (PMA), the program area being recorded with the contents as tracks, the PMA being recorded with at least two kinds of frames, one kind of frames containing identification information for identifying the rewritable optical disc and another kind of frames containing track information for indicating the tracks of the contents recorded in the program area, the method comprising:

accessing the PMA in response to the erase command;

detecting and deleting all of the frames containing the track information from the PMA, thereby logically erasing all of the contents from the program area, and at the same time erasing from the PMA the frames containing the identification information; and

preserving the frames containing the identification information in the PMA in such a manner that the frames containing the identification information and erased from the PMA are rewritten to the PMA so that the rewritable optical disc can be identified at rewriting thereof even after all of the contents are logically erased from the program area of the rewritable optical disc.

The Sawada reference does not disclose, teach or suggest the method specified in independent claim 1. Unlike the method specified in independent claim 1, Sawada does not teach a method that includes “*preserving the frames containing the identification information in the PMA in such a manner that the frames containing the identification information and erased from the PMA are rewritten to the PMA so that the rewritable optical disc can be identified at rewriting thereof even after all of the contents are logically erased from the program area of the rewritable optical disc.*” (hereinafter “**Preserving Limitation**”) Instead Sawada discloses an optical recording medium and a method of information recording/reading an optical recording medium which utilizes a quick erase. The quick erase method of Sawada includes an erase step in which the drive erases only the filing information area that stores the control data to disable further access to the programming area but does not actually erase the contents information of the program area. (*Sawada; FIGS. 4A and 4B; Col. 5, line 55 – Col. 6, line 11*) “**Even if the control data of the CD-RW medium 30 is accidentally erased by this method, the information stored in the program area 43 can be read by re-recording the control data which is recorded in another medium in the filing information area of the CD-RW medium.**” (*Sawada; Col. 6, lines 5-11, emphasis added*) As such, the control information is reserved in another medium for backup purposes. After inadvertent erase, the control

information is copied into the filing information area of the disk, thereby enabling reading of the information recorded in the program area. If there is no inadvertent erase, control information is never stored back to the disk. This recovery technique is distinct from “preserving the frames containing the identification information in the PMA in such a manner that the frames containing the identification information and erased from the PMA are rewritten to the PMA so that the rewritable optical disc can be identified at rewriting thereof even after all of the contents are logically erased from the program area of the rewritable optical disc.”

Further, Applicants respectfully submit, contrary to the Examiner’s assertion, the control information of Sawada does not inherently include disc identification. According to Sawada, the control information is read out from the filing information area and used for accessing the files recorded in the program area for recovery in the case of an inadvertent erase. Thus, the disk identification is not necessary for accessing the files recorded in the program area and the control information is merely a means for filing information necessary for accessing the files and never a means for disc identification. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 distinguishes over Sawada.

The Lee reference does not make up for the deficiencies of Sawada. The Lee reference is directed a disk recording medium and reproduction method having a new signal format which enables data access without specific operating system or application. (*Lee; Abstract; Col. 1, line 5-10; Col. 2, lines 11-45*) However the combination of Sawada and Lee does not disclose the Preserving limitation. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 distinguishes over Sawada in combination with Lee.

Claim 32 recites similar limitations to independent claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 32 distinguishes over Sawada in combination with Lee for reasons

similar to those set forth above with respect to claim 1.

Claims 2, 5, and 44 depend from independent claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2, 5 and 44 distinguish over Sawada in combination with Lee for the same reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1.

With respect to claim 2, the Ikeda reference does not make up for the deficiencies of Sawada and Lee. The Examiner utilizes Ikeda to show reading a disc id from a leading section of the PMA. (*November 1 Office Action, page 3*) However, the combination of Sawada, Lee, and Ikeda does not disclose a method which includes the Preserving Limitation. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 2 distinguishes over Sawada in combination with Lee and Ikeda.

With respect to claim 5, the Takeuchi reference does not make up for the deficiencies of Sawada and Lee. The Examiner utilizes Takeuchi to show rewriting identification information from the code incapable of identifying the rewritable optical disc to a code capable of identifying the rewritable optical disc. (*November 1 Office Action, page 3*) However, the combination of Sawada, Lee, and Ikeda does not disclose a method which includes the Preserving Limitation. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 5 distinguishes over Sawada in combination with Lee and Takeuchi.

With respect to claim 44, the Misaizu reference does not make up for the deficiencies of Sawada and Lee. The Examiner utilizes Misaizu to show a PMA divided in to section of 10 frames/ block. (*November 1 Office Action, page 3*) Nevertheless, the combination of Sawada, Lee, and Misaizu does not disclose a method which includes Preserving Limitation. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 44 distinguishes over Sawada in combination with Lee and Misaizu.

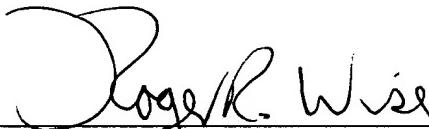
Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles telephone number (213) 488-7100 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance should the Examiner believe that such a telephone conference would advance prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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